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# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 52

Berkeley, Calif.

April 1970

Number 4

## TIMBER ACT—PESCADERO DAM—JENNER'S GRAVEL

**Good News** The controversial National Timber Supply Act-S1832 and H12025— suffered a resounding defeat when the House Rules Committee tried a floor vote February 26th. The part of the Act which aroused widespread conservationist opposition would have made it compulsory to increase timber harvests on National Forest lands—a reversal of the established sustained yield policy. It would have disrupted the multiple use concept under which recreation, grazing and watershed protection presumably enjoy equal status to lumbering (except, perhaps, in Alaska).

Dr. Russell Train, Undersecretary of the Interior and the official most admired and respected by conservationists in upper echelons of that Department, was named by President Nixon in January to head his new Council on Environmental Quality. It was a splendid choice for the Council — but many of us are concerned whether a person of equal dedication and qualifications will replace Dr. Train on Secretary Hickel's top staff.

**Bad News** that is almost incredible to many Californians is that of continued threats by public agencies to dedicated, gift memorial groves of Coast Redwoods. Most menacing at the moment is the proposal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with local business and political support, to build a dam on Pescadero Creek in San Mateo County that would flood 60 acres of redwoods in Portola State Park.

Other dedicated memorial groves in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in Del Norte County remain in some jeopardy unless the State Highway Commission formally adopts the bypass route for their future, re-aligned highway to Grants Pass. We thought this solution was adopted long ago after state and nation-wide protests shook many legislators, the Governor's Office — even die-hard highway commissioners.

**The ugly spectre of gravel dredging with accompanying noise and other environmental pollution for a term of 20 years or more faces the residents of Jenner and all who frequent the mouth of the Russian River. Penny Island, a little wildlife refuge in the river mouth, would gradually be carted away.** The Sonoma County Planning Commission granted the permit on February 26th, in spite of spirited protests. The Board of Supervisors may give the final decision before you read this. We know of no public

agency opposing this project and many fishermen, right or wrong, believe opening of the river mouth will increase salmon runs. And so goes our once-lovely coastline! There is a definite possibility of legislative action at Sacramento to curtail coastline "developments," perhaps this session.

Your chairman managed to attend the California-Nevada Wildlife Society Conference at Fresno January 30-31. There were keynote addresses by Director John J. Gottschalk, U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Director G. Ray Arnett of the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game and other agency officials — all of whom talk more like Audubon spokesmen with each passing year!

Dr. Starker Leopold spoke on new aspects in wildlife management and on the current wave of public enthusiasm for conservation — with support and leadership from as diverse quarters as campus radicals and the White House! He urges conservationists to make full use of their new political support. Dr. Joel Hedgpeth, well-known marine biologist, came fresh from hearings before the State Water Plan staff. He spoke in pungent terms of current abuses of San Francisco Bay and of water plan threats to the Delta and the Bay. Nearly every speaker urged more conservation education and more attention to the outdoor recreation needs of urban populations.—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

### "CALIFORNIA BIRDS" ON APRIL 9

Clarence B. Maynard will present a slide program on "California Birds" at the Golden Gate Audubon meeting on **Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m.** in the San Francisco Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave and Lincoln Way.

Mr. Maynard is a Golden Gate Audubon member who has photographed birds in their natural habitats in both Southern and Northern California. During fall, winter and spring he has been taking a semi-monthly census of shorebirds at Alameda for the California Department of Fish and Game's Special Wildlife Investigations.

Visitors are welcome at Audubon meetings. The entrance to the Hall of Flowers is well lighted.

### FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL-MAY 9

**Saturday, April 4** (as announced in *March Gull*) to Audubon Canyon Ranch to observe the nesting egrets and herons. Ranch Naturalist, Clerin Zumwalt, will guide the group first through the museum and nature center and then will lead a hike to the overlook. Park in the ranch lot. Meet promptly at **9 a.m.** in front of the fountain. Lunch optional.

**Thursday, April 16**, a wildflower walk in Redwood Regional Park in Oakland, starting from East Bay Regional Park Headquarters on Skyline Blvd. at **9 a.m.** After the morning walk, we shall drive to the archery area for lunch. Leader, Marshall Jencks, 543-9353.

**Saturday, April 18**, a joint field trip with Madrone Audubon Society to Bodega Bay and headlands for wildflowers and birds. Meet at **9:30 a.m.** in the parking lot of the newly developed boat launching basin on the *west* side of Bodega Harbor. Co-leaders, Baron A. McLean of Madrone Audubon and L. R. Leinbach of Golden Gate Audubon, 526-7649.

**Saturday, April 18**, to Pescadero, South Peninsula, for nesting marsh birds, bitterns, ducks, etc. Meet at **9 a.m.** on Pescadero Road, off State Highway 1, near the maintenance station. Allow  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours driving time from the Bay Area. Leader, Mrs. Marty Miller of Pescadero.

**Saturday, April 25**, McCoy Ranch, Arroyo Mocho, in the Livermore Valley. Bullock's Orioles, Phainopeplas, Western Kingbirds, Yellow-billed Magpies and Lewis' Woodpeckers can be seen. Meet in Livermore one block beyond the tall flagpole on Livermore Ave. at **8:15 a.m.** Allow one hour's driving time from Oakland. Leader, Miss Aileen Pierson, 587-4163.

**Sunday, April 26**, above trip will be repeated. Leader Miss Erline Hevel, 661-4251.

**Sunday, April 26**, (as announced in March *Gull*) Our annual HARDY SEAFARERS' trip *circling* Farallon Islands on the "Blue Horizon" and the "Paul G" for migrating and nesting sea birds. **The boats will leave at 7 a.m. Daylight Saving Time** and return about 4 p.m. Fare: \$10 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and *please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope*. Mail it to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109. Details will be sent with acknowledgement. **Reservations will close April 15**—or earlier if boats are filled.

**Saturday, May 9**, Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at **8:15 a.m.** at the South Toll Gate on the mountain. Bring lunch. Leader, Harry Adamson, YOSEMITE PARK WEEKEND TRIP will be **Friday, June 5-Sunday, June 7**. *For field trip participants only* we have reserved a small number of cabin units for the nights of Friday, June 5, and Saturday, June 6. See reservation information below. In order to help defray the leaders' expenses there will be a \$1 charge for all adults attending this trip. Please include this item in your check when making cabin reservations through Golden Gate Audubon. Others will pay at the start of the trip on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. at the main post office in Government Center.

Please use the following form for your reservations:

Camp Curry accommodations wanted: Cabin room with bath, single, \$11.50 per night. Cabin room with bath, double, \$7.25 per person per night, or \$6.00 per person for triple occupancy. Cabin without bath, single, \$5 per night. Cabin without bath, double, \$3.25 per person per night. Cabin without bath, triple occupancy, \$3 per person per night. **Add 5% tax to all accommodations.** All reservations must be made for *two nights*. European plan. **TOTAL ENCLOSED \$**.....

Please send names and addresses of both parties when making a double reservation. Cancellations may be made up to **April 30**. On a

double reservation a cancellation must be for a cabin room or cabin—not just for one person unless you provide a substitute and a check so that the original check can be returned. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and **mail before April 30** with a *stamped, self-addressed envelope* to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

### OAKLAND PARK NATURALIST PROGRAM

The Oakland Park Department's Naturalist Program will include three hikes in April. On Saturday mornings, *April 11 and 18*, the Naturalists will lead hikes in the redwoods and the clearings of Upper Sequoia, Joaquin Miller Park, meeting at the outer entrance to the Sequoia Arena on Skyline Blvd., west of the Roberts Area, at 9:30 a.m., returning by 12 noon. On Sunday morning, *April 12*, the Naturalist will lead an "Oakland Hills Wildflower Tour." Meet at 9:30 a.m. opposite the Regional Park Administration Building on Skyline Blvd. west of Redwood Road. Cars will be led to a hike beginning near Peralta Hill College. Sack lunches are optional.

Two illustrated programs will be presented Sunday afternoon, **April 12**, in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lakeside Park—"Broods Are News" at 2:30 p.m. and "Wildflowers of the West" at 4:15 p.m. "Meet Our Spring-Summer Birds", an introduction to birds of parks, streets and gardens, will be given in the Science Center at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, **April 19**, and at 4:15 p.m. Park Naturalist Paul Covel will present a slide review of The California Spring Garden Show. "Some Waterfowl, Waders and Divers", striking Kodachromes by Photographer C. B. Maynard, will be shown in the Science Center at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, **April 26**. "The Green City", a film from the National Park Service on nature sanctuaries is scheduled the same day at 4:15 p.m.

The lobby of the Natural Science Center will display spring wild-flowers of the Bay Area during April. The California Spring Garden Show will be held in Lakeside Park from April 17 through 28.

### PROPOSED SOUTH S.F. BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**"The greatest immediate effort by local conservationists should be directed toward establishment of the South San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, proposed in 1969 by Congressional Bill HR 2749. Massive public support locally and throughout the U.S. is essential to its success.** No other single project offers so much in preservation of a portion of the natural and unique character of the Bay Area. The urgency is caused by an August 1970 deadline imposed upon the BCDC to specify which Bay acreage it is possible for the public to acquire prior to opening it up for commercial development related to airports, water-oriented industry and housing."—Marian Lockwood in *The Sequoia*, March 1970 (Sequoia Audubon).

The U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has published a well illustrated brochure summarizing the results of their studies of the





# Announcing . . .

## A New Journal

CALIFORNIA BIRDS, a new quarterly journal devoted to field ornithology in California and the West, is soon to be published by California Field Ornithologists.

The journal will focus on subjects related to all aspects of field investigation, results of field observation and study, and problems of field identification. It will fill a long-felt need for a medium of communication between field ornithologists, one devoted solely to their interests.

The long-awaited first issue, now in press, will contain a complete, up-to-date list of the birds of California: the first since Grinnell

Membership in California Field Ornithologists is open to all and includes a subscription to CALIFORNIA BIRDS.

Classes of membership are as follows:

Patron.....	\$1000	Supporting Member.....	\$20
Life Member.....	150	Contributing Member....	10
Regular Member.....	\$5		

The first issue will be mailed to you upon receipt of your membership.

Make checks payable to CALIFORNIA BIRDS and send to:  
C. R. LYONS, 6424 Mt. Adelbert Dr., San Diego, California 92111.

I wish to join California Field Ornithologists and receive the journal  
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wildlife potential of South San Francisco Bay. This 31-page brochure includes a map of the proposed National Wildlife Refuge.

Art Lampert of Fremont has listed the following vantage points for viewing the proposed Refuge:

1. Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont. Hills in the park provide panoramic views of the eastern half of the Refuge.
2. Alviso Yacht Club.
3. Redwood City Yacht Club.

"The Refuge extends along the eastern half of the Bay from the north Fremont Boundary at Alameda Creek to the Alviso Bay frontage, a distance of 11 miles. It also extends across the Bay frontage of Menlo Park and Redwood City. Total Refuge area is 35 square miles, and the area of San Francisco is 45 square miles for comparison."

#### **A NEW THREAT TO CALIFORNIA SEA OTTERS**

Mrs. Margaret Owings, President of *Friends of the Sea Otter*, warns us that Senate Bill 442, introduced into the legislature by Senator Grunsky could literally destroy this remnant of a marine animal which has made a comeback after its virtual extinction. The Grunsky bill provides the Sea Otters may be taken outside the California Sea Otter Refuge under a permit or by the Dept. of Fish and Game, provided there has been a public hearing by the Fish & Game Commission, which has been given no less than 30 days notice, and provided there has been a specific finding by the commission that this action will not endanger the sea otter resource.

*Friends of the Sea Otter* gave the following warning:

1. The term "taking" means "hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill".
2. "Taken under a permit" or by Fish & Game means that permission can be given to commercial interests to harvest otters for their pelts or to grant requests by the abalone industry to slaughter otters in or near abalone beds (a publicly owned resource).

The remnant of sea otters, after their slaughter in the 19th century, has grown but not markedly. Still in the survival category, still on the totally "protected list" (like the Condor), they are considered by marine biologists to be "a unique colony of marine animals which should be protected."

For further information write *Friends of the Sea Otter*, Big Sur, Calif. 93920.

#### **GOLDEN GATE PARK CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL**

Golden Gate Park will begin the Centennial festivities with a parade **April 4** and a flower show in the Hall of Flowers, **April 14-16**. On **May 17** *Chronicle* columnist Margot Patterson Doss will lead a walk through the park along new hiking trails in Strybing Arboretum.

In 1930 the California Academy of Sciences published a *Handbook of the Birds of Golden Gate Park* by Joseph Mailliard, Curator Emeritus, Dept. of Ornithology. This interesting book included a Least Bittern in the tules of North Lake—"occasional visitant, summer."

**OBSERVATIONS CALENDAR**

Jan. 31, Feb. 5, 6-80 *Whistling Swans* at Garcia River (north of Point Arena)—Jean Rand.

Feb. 3—spring migration sign—*thousand Tree Swallows* lined up on wires on Grizzly Island, Solano County.

Feb. 5—*Sage Thrasher* still in Alameda, observed eating Pyracantha berries in backyard at South Shore—Elsie Roemer. Jim Clayton photographed this Sage Thrasher Jan. 6.

Feb. 7—*Flamingo* (of uncertain origin) on salt ponds near Coyote Hills Regional Park—Norman Fitzwater. (Still there March 2.)

Feb. 10—*Gadwall* pair on North Lake, Golden Gate Park.

Feb. 16—*White-throated Sparrow* at El Sobrante feeder—Elaine Skiathas.

Feb. 17—*Harlequin drake* still at Marconi Cove, Tomales Bay.

Feb. 20—*Cattle Egrets* (2) still at Pt. Reyes Station.

Feb. 21—*Yellow-headed Blackbird* near Terminous in Delta—Bill Pursell.

Feb. 24—*Fulvous Tree Duck* in fresh water marsh of Coyote Hills Regional Park (with flock of Pintail) feeding, preening, flying, whistling—Bill Pursell, Larry Curl, et al. "In the summer of 1917 several downy young were caught in the salt marsh near Mt. View and were raised in captivity. It was assumed that they were wild-hatched birds"—*The Birds of the South S.F. Bay Region* by Charles G. Sibley.

Feb. 24—Two *Rock Wrens* in Coyote Hills Regional Park.

March 2—*Fulvous Tree Duck* still in Coyote Hills Park—Ruth & Ted Dement, Bud Fry.

March 3—*Harlequin drake* at Sonoma County coast near Sea Ranch—Jean Rand. *Whistling Swan* still on Garcia River.

March 7—On incoming tide 3 *Clapper Rails* emerged from Alameda South Shore marsh, hopped across a backyard fence and perched in a tree about 9 ft. above ground on Golden Gate field trip.—Elsie Roemer & Val DaCosta.



**AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON**  
**Under joint sponsorship of Bay Area Audubon**  
**Societies to protect a major rookery of Common**  
**Egrets and Great Blue Herons.**

Golden Gate Audubon needs volunteer hosts and hostesses at Canyon Ranch on weekends in **June** and on **July 4-5**. Volunteers greet visitors and show them where to register. If you can help, please write Mrs. Kathy Higgs, 340 Esplanade, Apt. 20, Pacifica 94044.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is now open to the public on weekends and holidays without appointment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Groups may visit by appointment on week days (except Monday). Please call or write Audubon Canyon Ranch, Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach 94970. The Ranch has a new phone number in Mill Valley—383-1644—to make it cheaper to call

from San Francisco and the East Bay. The West Marin number is still 868-0563.

### INTERIOR DEPT. VETOS PLAN FOR SESPE DAMS

"The Interior Department has taken a significant step in recommending the shelving of a project that called for inundating 1,300 acres of wild land in **California's condor country**, the Los Padres National Forest. In making the decision, the department considered the effect on environment and wildlife habitat as the prime basis for its action. The department thus has a good start towards the necessary change in attitudes called for by the new Environmental Policy Act.

The same praise, however, can't be given the local government. Ventura County supervisors started looking around for ways to get the Federal government to repay them somehow for the loss of the project. And one supervisor indicated he thought the best solution would be to go out and shoot the rest of the condors!"—*Audubon Leader*, Feb. 27th, 1970.

### OUR THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Special thanks to each of the members who gave their time on both week days and weekends to man the Golden Gate Audubon table at the Pollution Show in the Oakland Museum January 9 to February 15. Among the volunteers were some sons and daughters of GGAS members. Not only did the table gain us many new memberships, but it gave us an opportunity to discuss with hundreds of people some of the conservation issues that Audubon is concerned about, both local and national. Inquiries about our Nature Training Program and about Canyon Ranch were most numerous

—MRS. RICHARD JOHNSON, Vice President.

### SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to **Audubon Canyon Ranch**:

<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Gift of</i>
R. Kirk Sexton .....	Mr. & Mrs. George Gnau
Miriam G. Geraghty .....	Isabel Hamilton
Dr. Hobart Rogers .....	Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles
Eugene Burton Butler .....	Mrs. Herbert S. Henderson
<i>In Appreciation of</i>	<i>Gift of</i>
Vi Homem's Bird Slide Program .....	The Earthworms Garden Club

A special gift was made to the **Canyon Ranch Sanctuary Fund** by Mr. David B. Devine. The Sears Roebuck Foundation made a special contribution to the **Audubon Nature Training Program**.

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

**CLASSES.** At Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Tiburon, the National Audubon Society will offer a Nature Workshop for adults on Wednesdays from **April 22 to May 27**. The program will include six field trips and also projects such as hand-rubbed ink prints and terrariums. Fee: \$25 to enroll in morning or afternoon classes. For information write Mrs. Virginia Havel, Box 719, Ross, CA 94957. Phone 456-1431.

U.C. Extension, San Francisco, has scheduled a program for families, *An Introduction to Field Natural History*, Sundays, **April 12 to May 17**, with lectures and field trips. Instructor: Albert Kirk Conragan. Fee: \$50 adults; \$30 children, 9-15, accompanied by enrolled parent. Write U.C. Extension Daytime Program 55 Laguna St., S.F., 94102. Phone 861-5452.



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1970

THE GULL

April

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**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley	94708	524-2495
Vice President	Mrs. Richard Johnson	1127 El Centro Ave. Oakland	94602	533-7118
Vice President	Roger H. Coffee	220 Palo Alto Ave., San Francisco	94114	566-4105
Treasurer	Edward Ormondroyd	2736 Russell St., Berkeley	94705	549-1385
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Jane Dang	1292 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley	94708	848-0253
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Raymond Higgs	340 Esplanade No. 20, Pacifica	94044	355-6264
Director	Robert E. Conrath	1980 Washington St., San Francisco	94118	776-1418
Director	Miss Bertha Underhill	35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley	94708	848-0131
Director	Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr.	3212 Jackson St., San Francisco	94118	567-4037
Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland	94611	339-1886
Field Trips Chairman	Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco	94109	931-5257
Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco	94132	587-4163
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco	94123	673-5310
Nature Training	Miss Phyllis Lindley	P.O. Box 103, Berkeley	94701	549-1038
Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland	94610	451-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont	94611	655-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware St., Oakland	94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Crmn.	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	94116	681-7635

Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National \$10 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.